

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The presently claimed lithium secondary battery involves a battery with a plurality of positive electrodes and negative electrodes that are arranged to form an electrode structure. The outermost layers of the electrode structure are entirely coated with a back coat layer. The claimed battery with the described electrode structure prevents the outmost layer electrodes from warping. In addition, the structure of the battery prevents hard internal short-circuiting even in an abnormal state as contemplated in a nail penetration test.

The presently claimed battery is not taught or suggested by the cited reference.

The rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Matsumura (U.S. 6,416,559) is respectfully traversed.

Matsumura describes a method for manufacturing an electrode for a battery. One aspect of the method involves coating a portion of the electrode to be cut with a resin. The resin is only applied to the area to be cut so that short circuits are not created during the cutting process. This involves applying resin to a small area of the electrode as shown in Figure 1 (area 4) of Matsumura.

After cutting only a small amount of the resin resides on the edge of the electrode. The remainder of the electrode as shown in area 1 of Figure 1 is free of resin. Matsumura does not teach or suggest applying a coating to the entire outermost surface of the electrode structure. The small amount of resin applied to one edge of the electrode in Matsumura would not provide the benefits of electrode warp control or prevention of hard internal short-circuiting in an abnormal state such as a nail penetration test. In addition, the method in Matsumura requires addition of resin to both sides of the electrode. In contrast, the presently claimed battery has a back coat only on the outermost layers of the electrode structure.

Overall, Matsumura does not teach or suggest the presently claimed battery. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion in Matsumura to modify the electrode described

in Matsumura to arrive at the presently claimed battery. Therefore, the presently claimed battery is not anticipated or obvious over the cited reference, and accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In light of the above remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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